

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

FEC HOLDINGS, LP, a Texas limited partnership; FEC MESQUITE, LP; a Texas limited partnership; FEC CHAMPIONS, LP, a Texas limited partnership; FEC OKC	)
MACARTHUR, LLC, an Oklahoma limited liability company; FEC	)
SUGARLAND, LP, a Texas limited partnership; FEC EULESS, LP, a Texas limited partnership; FEC	)
PASADENA, LP, a Texas limited partnership; FEC LAFAYETTE, LLC, a Louisiana limited liability company;	)
FEC EL PASO, LP, a Texas limited partnership; and LLOYD ROBERT FRENCH, III, an individual,	)
Plaintiffs,	)
v.	)
INcredible PIZZA FRANCHISE GROUP, LLC, a Missouri limited liability company, RICHARD BARSNESS, an individual, and CHERYL BARSNESS, an individual,	) ) ) ) )
Defendants.	)
	CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-3042-CV-S-RED

**ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND INCREDIBLE  
PIZZA FRANCHISE GROUP LLC'S COUNTERCLAIM**

Defendants Incredible Pizza Franchise Group, LLC (“Incredible Pizza”), Richard Barsness and Cheryl Barsness (collectively the “Defendants”) by their attorneys, and as and for their answer and amended counterclaim state as follows:

## **ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

## INTRODUCTION

- ### 1. Admit.

2. Admit.

3. Admit.

4. Admit.

5. Deny.

6. Paragraph 6 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 6.

7. Deny.

8. Deny.

9. Deny.

10. Deny.

11. Deny.

12. Deny.

13. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 13, and therefore deny them.

14. Deny.

15. Deny.

16. Deny.

17. Deny.

18. Defendants admit that plaintiffs purport to seek rescission of the Area Development Agreement and all Franchise Agreements between the parties as well as damages, but deny that plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief they seek. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 18.

## **PARTIES**

19. Admit.

20. Admit.

21. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 21, and therefore deny them.

22. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 22, and therefore deny them.

23. Admit.

24. Admit.

25. Admit.

26. Admit.

27. Admit.

28. Admit.

29. Defendants admit that Incredible Pizza is a Missouri limited liability company with its principal place of business at 2522 South Campbell, Springfield, Missouri and that Incredible Pizza is the franchisor of Incredible-Pizza branded “family entertainment centers.” Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 29.

30. Deny.

31. Deny.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

32. Defendants admit that jurisdiction is proper in the United States Court for the Western District of Missouri and that there is complete diversity between the parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 32.

33. Deny.
34. Defendants admit that venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 34.

## **FACTS**

35. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 35, and therefore deny them.
36. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 36, and therefore deny them.
37. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 37, and therefore deny them.
38. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 38, and therefore deny them.
39. Deny.
40. Defendants admit that Mr. Mullen visited Springfield, Missouri. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 40.
41. Deny.
42. Deny.

### **Richard and Cheryl Barsness and IPC Make Pre-Sale Representations Regarding Incredible Pizza Franchise Opportunities<sup>1</sup>**

43. Deny.

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<sup>1</sup> Defendants include the headings and subheadings used in the plaintiffs' complaint for the Court's convenience. To the extent these headings are subheadings can be construed as allegations, Defendants deny any and all allegations contained in any of plaintiffs' headings or subheadings.

44. Exhibit A speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit A and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 44.

45. Exhibit A speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit A and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 45.

46. Exhibit A speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit A and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 46.

47. Exhibit A speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit A and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 46.

48. Deny.

49. Deny.

50. Deny.

51. Deny.

52. Deny.

53. Defendants admit that Richard and Cheryl Barsness knew that a “John’s Incredible Pizza Company” was operating in the State of California. Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 53.

54. Deny.

55. Deny.

56. Deny.

**IPC Makes Earnings Claims Based On Its Company Store’s Financials**

57. Deny.

58. Deny.

59. Deny.

60. Deny.

61. Exhibit B speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit B and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 61.

62. Exhibit B speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit B and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 62.

63. Deny.

64. Deny.

65. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 65, and therefore deny them.

66. Exhibit D speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit D and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 67.

67. Deny.

68. Deny.

### **The 2003 UFOC**

69. Defendants admit Incredible Pizza provided Mr. French with a copy of Incredible Pizza's 2003 UFOC ("2003 UFOC") on September 17, 2003. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 69.

70. Paragraph 70 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 70.

71. Deny.

72. Paragraph 72 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 72.

73. Paragraph 73 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 73.

74. Deny.

75. Deny.

76. Deny.

**Fee Obligation Disclosure Under Item 6**

77. Paragraph 77 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 77.

78. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 78.

79. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 79.

80. Deny.

81. Deny.

**Purchase Obligations and Vendor Rebate Disclosures Under Item 8**

82. Paragraph 82 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 82.

83. Paragraph 83 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 83.

84. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 84.

85. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 85.

86. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 86.

87. Deny.

88. Deny.

89. Deny.

**Trademark Disclosures Under Item 13**

90. Paragraph 90 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 90.

91. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 91.

92. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 92.

93. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 93.

94. Deny.

**Earnings Claims Disclosures Under Item 19**

95. Paragraph 95 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 95.

96. Paragraph 96 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 96.

97. Paragraph 97 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 97.

98. Paragraph 98 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 98.

99. Paragraph 99 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 99.

100. Paragraph 100 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 100.

101. Paragraph 101 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 101.

102. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 102.

103. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 103.

104. Deny.

105. Deny.

106. Deny.

107. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 107.

108. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 108.

109. The 2003 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 109.

110. Deny.

111. Deny.

112. The ADA speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the ADA and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 112.

113. The ADA speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the ADA and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 113.

114. The ADA speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the ADA and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 114.

115. The 2003 UFOC and ADA speak for themselves. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and ADA, and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 115.

116. The 2003 UFOC and ADA speak for themselves. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and ADA, and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 116.

117. The 2003 UFOC and ADA speak for themselves. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and ADA, and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 117.

118. The 2003 UFOC and ADA speak for themselves. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and ADA, and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 118.

119. The 2003 UFOC and ADA speak for themselves. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2003 UFOC and ADA, and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 119.

120. Deny.

121. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 121, and therefore deny them.

122. Deny.

123. Deny.

#### **The Letter Agreement**

124. Defendants admit Incredible Pizza and L.R. French on behalf of Whole Family Entertainment, L.P. entered into a 2003 Letter Agreement (“Letter Agreement”). Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the Letter Agreement and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 124.

125. The Letter Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the Letter Agreement and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 125.

126. The Letter Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the Letter Agreement and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 126.

#### **The Houston Franchise Agreement**

127. Defendants admit that on April 16, 2004, FEC Houston 1960 LP and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company franchise in Houston, Texas (the “Houston Franchise Agreement”), and that plaintiffs purport to attach a copy of the Houston Franchise Agreement to their First Amended Complaint as Exhibit H. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 127.

128. Deny.

129. The Houston Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny allegations inconsistent with the Houston Franchise Agreement and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 129.

### **The 2004 UFOC**

130. Defendants admit Incredible Pizza provided FEC with a copy of Incredible Pizza's 2004 UFOC ("2004 UFOC"). Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 130.

#### **Fee Obligation Disclosure Under Item 6**

131. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 131.

132. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 132.

133. Deny.

#### **Purchase Obligations and Vendor Rebate Disclosures Under Item 8**

134. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 134.

135. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 135.

136. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 136.

137. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 137.

138. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations in paragraph 138 and therefore deny them.

**Trademark Disclosures Under Item 13**

139. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 139.

140. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 140.

141. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 141.

142. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 142.

**Earnings Claims Disclosure Under Item 19**

143. The 2004 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2004 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 143.

144. Deny.

145. Deny.

146. Deny.

147. Deny.

148. Deny.

149. Deny.

**Whole Family Assigns the ADA to FEC**

150. Admit.

**The Oklahoma City Franchise Agreement**

151. Defendants admit that on August 12, 2004, FEC MacArthur LLC and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company franchise

in Oklahoma City (“Oklahoma City Franchise Agreement”), and that plaintiffs purport to attach a copy of the Oklahoma City Franchise Agreement to their First Amended Complaint as Exhibit J. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 151.

152. Deny.

153. The Oklahoma City Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the Oklahoma City Franchise Agreement and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 152.

#### **IPC Makes More Earnings Claims**

154. Exhibit K speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit K and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 154.

155. Exhibit K speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit K and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 155.

156. Exhibit L speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit L and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 156.

157. Exhibit L speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit L and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 157.

158. Deny.

#### **The Sugarland Franchise Agreement**

159. Defendants admit that on April 1, 2005, FEC Sugarland, LP and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company Franchise in Sugarland Texas (“Sugarland Franchise Agreement”), and that plaintiffs purport to attach a copy of the Sugarland Franchise Agreement to their Fist Amended Complaint as Exhibit M. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 159.

160. Deny.

161. The Sugarland Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the Sugarland Franchise Agreement and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 161.

### **The Management Agreements**

162. Deny.

163. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 163 and therefore deny them.

164. Exhibit N speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit N and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 164.

165. Exhibit N speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit N and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 165.

166. Exhibit N speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit N and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 166.

167. Deny.

168. Defendants admit that on October 21, 2005, FEC Sugarland, LP and Incredible Pizza entered into a Management Agreement. Exhibit O speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit O and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 168.

169. Exhibit O speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit N and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 169.

170. Deny.

171. Exhibit P speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with Exhibit P and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 171.

172. Deny.

173. Deny.

174. Deny.

**The Euless Franchise Agreement**

175. Defendants admit that on April 4, 2006, FEC Euless, LP and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company Franchise in Euless Texas (“Euless Franchise Agreement”), and that plaintiffs purport to attach the Euless Franchise Agreement to their First Amended Complaint as Exhibit Q. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 175.

176. Deny.

177. The Euless Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent therewith deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 177.

**The Pasadena Franchise Agreement**

178. Defendants admit that on April 4, 2006, FEC Pasadena, LP and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company Franchise in Pasadena, Texas (“Pasadena Franchise Agreement”) and that Plaintiffs purport to attach a copy of the Pasadena Franchise Agreement to their First Amended Complaint as Exhibit R. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 178.

179. Deny.

180. The Pasadena Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent therewith and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 180.

### **The Pasedena Franchise Agreement**

181. Defendants admit that on April 4, 2006, FEC Lafayette, LP and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company Franchise in Lafayette, Louisiana (“Lafayette Franchise Agreement”) and that plaintiffs purport to attach a copy of the Lafayette Franchise Agreement to their First Amended Complaint as Exhibit S. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 181.

182. Deny.

183. The Lafayette Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent therewith and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 183.

### **Management Agreements and Store Openings**

184. Deny.

185. The Pasadena Management Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent therewith and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 185.

186. Deny.

187. Admit.

188. Deny.

189. Deny.

### **The 2007 UFOC**

190. Incredible Pizza admits that it provided plaintiffs with an updated copy of Incredible Pizza’s 2007 UFOC (“2007 UFOC”). Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 190.

**Fee Obligation Disclosure Under Item 6**

191. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 191.

192. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 192.

193. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 193.

194. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 194.

195. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 195.

196. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself, and Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent therewith. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 196, and therefore deny them.

**Trademark Disclosures Under Item 13**

197. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 197.

198. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 198.

199. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 199.

**Earnings Claims Disclosure Under Item 19**

200. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 200.

201. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 201.

202. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 202.

203. Deny.

204. Deny.

205. Deny.

206. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 206.

207. The 2007 UFOC speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the 2007 UFOC and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 207.

**The El Paso Franchise Agreement**

208. Defendants admit that on December 19, 2007, FEC El Paso, LP and Incredible Pizza executed a Franchise Agreement for operation of an Incredible Pizza Company Franchise in El Paso, Texas (“El Paso Franchise Agreement”) and that plaintiffs purport to attach a copy of the El Paso Franchise Agreement to their First Amended Complaint as Exhibit U. Defendants deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 208.

209. Deny.

210. The El Paso Franchise Agreement speaks for itself. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent therewith and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 210.

211. Admit.

**The Houston Location Closes and the Mesquite Location Opens**

212. Defendants admit that FEC Champions closed the Houston location on March 24, 2008. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 212, and therefore deny them.

213. Deny.

214. Defendants admit that the Mesquite location opened on June 26, 2008. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 214, and therefore deny them.

**Plaintiffs Discover the Misleading Nature of IPC's Representations and Omissions**

215. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 215, and therefore deny them.

216. Deny.

217. Deny.

218. Deny.

219. Deny.

220. Deny.

221. Deny.

222. Deny.

223. Deny.

224. Deny.

225. Deny.

226. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 226, and therefore deny them.

227. Deny.

228. Deny.

229. Deny.

230. Deny.

231. Deny.

232. Deny.

233. Deny.

#### **Plaintiffs' Losses**

234. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 234, and therefore deny them.

235. Deny.

236. Defendants admit that plaintiffs seek to rescind the ADA, the Franchise Agreements and all related agreements and to recover an award of damages. Defendants deny the plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief they seek and deny the remaining allegations of Paragraph 236.

#### **COUNT I** **Fraud/Fraudulent Inducement**

237. Deny.

238. Paragraph 238 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 238.

239. Paragraph 239 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 239.

240. Deny.

241. Deny.

242. Deny.

243. Deny.

244. Deny.

245. Deny.

246. Deny.

**COUNT II**  
**Violations of the Texas Business Opportunity Act**

247. Paragraph 247 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 247.

248. Paragraph 248 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 248.

249. Paragraph 249 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 239.

250. Deny.

251. Deny.

252. Deny.

253. Paragraph 253 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 253.

254. Deny.

255. Deny.

256. Deny.

257. Deny.

258. Deny.

259. Deny.

260. Deny.

261. Deny.

**COUNT III**

**Breach of Contract and the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing**

262. Paragraph 262 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 262.

263. Paragraph 263 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 263.

264. Paragraph 264 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 264.

265. The Franchise Agreements speak for themselves. Defendants deny any allegations inconsistent with the Franchise Agreements and deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 265.

266. Deny.

267. Deny.

268. Paragraph 268 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 268.

269. Deny.

270. Deny.

271. Deny.

**COUNT IV**

**Violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices—Consumer Protection Act**

272. Paragraph 272 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 272.

273. Paragraph 273 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 273.

274. Paragraph 274 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 274.

275. Paragraph 275 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 275.

276. Deny.

277. Deny.

278. Deny.

279. Deny.

280. Deny.

281. Deny.

282. Deny.

283. Deny.

284. Deny.

**COUNT V**

**Violations of Oklahoma Deceptive Trade Practices Act**

285. Paragraph 285 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 285.

286. Deny.

287. Deny.

288. Paragraph 288 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 288.

289. Deny.

290. Deny.

**COUNT VI**  
**Violations of Oklahoma Consumer Protection Act**

291. Paragraph 291 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 291.

292. Paragraph 292 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 292.

293. Deny.

294. Deny.

295. Paragraph 295 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 295.

296. Deny.

297. Deny.

**COUNT VII**  
**Negligent Misrepresentation**

298. Paragraph 298 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 298.

299. Paragraph 299 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 299.

300. Deny.

301. Deny.

302. Deny.

**COUNT VIII**  
**Violations of Section 2(c) of the Robinson Patman Act**

303. Paragraph 303 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 303.

304. Paragraph 304 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 304.

305. Deny.

306. Deny.

307. Deny.

308. Deny.

309. Deny.

**COUNT IX**  
**Violation of RICO: 18 U.S.C. § 1962(b)**

310. Deny.

311. Paragraph 311 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 311.

312. Paragraph 312 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 312.

313. Paragraph 313 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 313.

314. Deny.

315. Paragraph 315 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 315.

316. Paragraph 316 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 316.

317. Paragraph 317 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 317.

318. Deny.

319. Deny.

320. Deny.

321. Deny.

322. Deny.

323. Deny.

**COUNT X**  
**Violation of RICO: 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c)**

324. Paragraph 324 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 324.

325. Deny.

326. Deny.

327. Deny.

328. Deny.

329. Deny.

330. Deny.

331. Deny.

**COUNT XI**  
**Violation of RICO: 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d)**

332. Paragraph 332 states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 332.

333. Deny.

334. Deny.

335. Deny.

336. Deny.

337. Deny.

338. Deny.

339. Deny.

340. Deny.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

1. Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.  
2. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the applicable statute of limitations.  
3. Plaintiffs are barred from asserting any cause of action by reason of the Doctrine of Laches.

4. Plaintiffs have comingled multiple actions and have therefore failed to plead or elect their remedy.

5. All damages, if any, sustained by plaintiffs, were directly and proximately caused or were directly and proximately contributed to be caused by the negligent acts, actions or omissions of plaintiffs.

6. Defendants have thoroughly performed contractual obligations in their relationship with plaintiffs to the extent Defendants have contractual obligations plaintiffs.

7. Plaintiffs have fully accepted Defendants' performance of all contractual obligations, to the extent of any contractual relationship, and have thus waived any cause of action.

8. Plaintiffs are not entitled to recover on their alleged causes of action and are barred by reason of the fact that any alleged damages suffered by Plaintiffs were the direct and proximate result of plaintiffs' failure to take actions to mitigate said damages.

9. Plaintiffs' claims are barred because they failed to comply with the mandatory mediation requirements in the franchise agreements before filing suit.

**AMENDED COUNTERCLAIM FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

1. Defendant/counterclaim plaintiff Incredible Pizza brings counterclaims against all plaintiffs who have not filed for bankruptcy for breaches of the Area Development Agreement, franchise agreements and related guarantees. Incredible Pizza seeks damages for breaches of the Area Development Agreement, Franchise Agreements and related guarantees.

2. Six of the Plaintiffs, FEC OKC MacArthur, LLC, FEC Sugarland, LP, FEC Euless, LP, FEC Pasadena, LP, FEC Lafayette, LLC and FEC El Paso, LP (the "Debtor Companies"), filed for relief under chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code on March 8, 2010, commencing Case Nos. 10-50287 through 10-50292 (the "Bankruptcy Cases") on the docket of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Lafayette Division. As a result of the filing of the Bankruptcy Cases, the automatic stay of section 362(a) of the Bankruptcy Code prevents, inter alia, the commencement or continuation of any action or proceeding in the Court against the Debtor Companies. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, this Amended Counterclaim for Damages and Injunctive Relief is not intended, and shall not be construed in any way, to be an act in violation of section 362 of the

Bankruptcy Code in the Bankruptcy Cases. Any and all claims and/or causes of action asserted by Incredible Pizza against the Debtor Companies in the original Counterclaim previously filed herein are stayed and not dismissed; however, they can be pursued by Incredible Pizza if the automatic stay is modified, terminated or lifted. Incredible Pizza filed a Motion to Lift the Stay in the Bankruptcy Cases on April 16, 2010. If the stay is lifted or otherwise modified or terminated, Incredible Pizza reserves all rights to amend its counterclaim to assert any and all counterclaims against the Debtor Companies that it may have asserted herein, but was prohibited from asserting by virtue of the automatic stay.

## **PARTIES**

3. Incredible Pizza is a Missouri limited liability company with its principal place of business at 2522 South Campbell, Springfield, Missouri. Incredible Pizza is the franchisor of family entertainment centers offering all-you-can-eat buffets, 50's-themed dining, private party rooms, and fairgrounds containing games, rides and attractions for all ages of the family.

4. Plaintiffs and counterclaim defendants consist of all of the non-debtor plaintiffs that entered into the franchise agreements at issue (or their assignees); the entity that entered into the Area Development Agreement with Incredible Pizza; and Lloyd Robert French, III (“French”), who personally guaranteed certain provisions of the agreements and who is the principal of each plaintiff/counterclaim defendant entity.

## **FACTS**

### **A. The Area Development Agreement**

5. On November 25, 2003, Whole Family Entertainment, L.P. (“Whole Family”) signed the Area Development Agreement (“ADA”), a copy of which is attached to plaintiffs’ complaint as Exhibit F. According to plaintiffs’ complaint, Whole Family later assigned its rights under the ADA to plaintiff FEC Holdings, LP (“FEC Holdings”).

6. Under the ADA, Whole Family (and later FEC Holdings, LP), agreed to develop a total of 35 Incredible Pizza centers in 15 markets in the Midwest, South and Southwest United States in accordance with the development schedule set forth in the ADA.

7. French personally guaranteed the obligations and performance of the Area Development Agreement.

**B. The Franchise Agreements**

8. Between April 2004 and December 2007, plaintiffs entered into a total of seven franchise agreements for the operation of Incredible Pizza centers. These seven agreements are collectively referred to herein as the “Franchise Agreements.”

9. On April 16, 2004, FEC Houston 1960 LP entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in Houston, Texas.<sup>2</sup> The Incredible Pizza center operated under this agreement is referred to herein as the “Mesquite Center.”

10. On August 12, 2004, plaintiff FEC OKC MacArthur, LLC entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The center operated pursuant to the Oklahoma City Franchise Agreement is located in Warr Acres, Oklahoma and is referred to herein as the “Warr Acres Center.”

11. On April 1, 2005, plaintiff FEC Sugarland, LP entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in Sugarland, Texas. The Incredible Pizza center operated by the applicable plaintiff under this agreement is referred to herein as the “Sugarland Center.”

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<sup>2</sup> According to plaintiffs’ First Amended Complaint, FEC Houston 1960, LP no longer exists. According to the complaint, “The Houston-area Incredible Pizza franchise is operated and funded by FEC Champions, LP, a party to this action” and “[a]ll of FEC Houston’s interests in the Houston-area Incredible Pizza Franchise were transferred to FEC Champions.” The Houston Center was transferred to Mesquite, Texas, and FEC Champions, LP (“FEC Champions”) transferred its interest to FEC Mesquite, LP (“FEC Mesquite”).

12. On April 4, 2006, plaintiff FEC Euless, LP entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in Euless, Texas. The Incredible Pizza center operated under this agreement is referred to herein as the “Euless Center.”

13. On April 4, 2006, plaintiff FEC Pasadena, LP entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in Pasadena, Texas. The Incredible Pizza center operated under this agreement is referred to herein as the “Pasadena Center.”

14. On April 4, 2006, plaintiff FEC Lafayette, LLC entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in Lafayette, Louisiana. The Incredible Pizza center operated under this agreement is referred to herein as the “Lafayette Center.”

15. On Dec 19, 2007, plaintiff FEC El Paso, L.P. entered into a franchise agreement to operate an Incredible Pizza center in El Paso, Texas. The Incredible Pizza center operated under this agreement is referred to herein as the “El Paso Center.”

16. Each franchise agreement grants Incredible Pizza an option to acquire the assets of the center in the event the agreement is terminated, exercisable within 30 days of the termination. Specifically, section 16.6 of each of the agreements states:

**Company's Option to Purchase FEC.** Upon the termination or expiration of the franchise, we shall have the option, but not the obligation, exercisable for thirty (30) days upon written notice of you, to purchase at fair market value all of the assets of the FEC including all approved equipment, games, rides attractions, redemption and other merchandise, fixtures furniture and signs and all glassware, utensils, supplies, materials and other items imprinted with any Mark. If we cannot agree on the fair market value of the assets of the FEC within a reasonable period of time, such value shall be determined by the following process: each of us shall select an independent appraiser which shall appraise the assets of the FEC. The values established by each of the appraisers shall be combined and averaged to determine the fair market value of the FEC. We shall not assume any liabilities, debts or obligations of the FEC in connection with any such transfer and you shall indemnify us from any and all claims made against us raising our of any such transfer of the assets of the FEC. The parties shall comply with all applicable laws in connection with any such transfer and you shall cooperate with the Company in complying with all such requirements.

(Franchise Agreements; Section 16.6, attached plaintiffs' complaint as Exs. H, J, M, Q, R, S, U.)

17. Section 16.7 of each Franchise Agreement also grants Incredible Pizza an option to acquire the premises or leasehold upon which the center was operated. It provides:

**Real Property.** In the event you own the real property on which the FEC is located, we will also have the option to purchase this property for a period of thirty (30) days following expiration or termination of this Agreement. If we cannot agree on the fair market value of the property within a reasonable period of time, such value shall be determined by the following process: each of us shall select an independent appraiser which shall appraise the real property. The values established by each of the appraisers shall be combined and averaged to determine the fair market value of the property. The purchase price will be payable in full at the closing, minus customary prorations, including the pay-off of existing mortgage. If you lease the real property on which the FEC is located, we also have the option to assume the lease from you on a prospective basis under the original terms and conditions negotiated by you and the landlord and you may continue to be liable under the lease for the remainder of the term of the lease.

(*Id.* § 16.7.)

18. On November 25, 1003, Incredible Pizza and Mr. French also executed a letter agreement ("Letter Agreement") which provides with regard to Sections 16.6 and 16.7 of the franchise agreements:

It is the intent of the Parties in Section 16.6 and 16.7 of the Franchise Agreement that if the appraisers' reports show a discrepancy of 20% or more, then the two appraisers will submit their appraisal to an independent appraiser chosen by them whose appraisal shall bind both Parties, the cost of such third appraiser to be shared by the Parties.

(Letter Agreement, attached to plaintiffs' complaint as Ex. G, ¶ 3(i).)

19. The Letter Agreement also provides:

[T]he intent of the Parties in Section 8 to the Development Agreement is that French may terminate any Franchise Agreement if the FEC operating under the Franchise Agreement has been operating at a loss, as determined by French's independent accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, for three (3) consecutive months.

...

The intent of the Parties in Section 15 of the Franchise Agreement is that French may terminate any Franchise Agreement at will, upon at least 90 days' advance written notice to Incredible of termination, with no contingent liabilities if the related FEC has been operating at a loss, as defined in Section 3(b) above, for (3) consecutive months.

(Letter Agreement ¶¶ 3(b) & 3(c).)

20. In the Franchise Agreements, plaintiffs agreed to certain obligations upon termination of the Franchise Agreements.

21. Plaintiffs agreed that upon termination of the Franchise Agreements, they will pay all amounts owed to Incredible Pizza or its affiliates. (Franchise Agreements § 16.1.)

22. Plaintiffs agreed that upon termination of the Franchise Agreements, they will cease to identify themselves or any business with which they are associated as current or former franchisees of Incredible Pizza, cease using Incredible Pizza's Marks, and return to Incredible Pizza any proprietary software and/or return or destroy any forms relating to an Incredible Pizza Family Entertainment Center, among other obligations set forth in Paragraph 16.2 of their Franchise Agreements. (Franchise Agreements § 16.2.)

23. Plaintiffs agreed to de-identify their former Incredible Pizza centers after the Franchise Agreements were terminated. (Franchise Agreements § 16.3.)

24. Plaintiffs agreed to cease to use confidential information as defined in the Franchise Agreements and to immediately return to Incredible Pizza any and all confidential materials, including the Incredible Pizza operations manual. (Franchise Agreements § 16.4.)

25. Plaintiffs agreed "that for a period of 2 years after the effective date of termination, or the date on which you stop operating the FEC, whichever is later," Plaintiffs would not maintain an interest in any business that "offers and sells pizza in conjunction with video or redemption games, rides or attractions, located or operating at or within a radius of 7

miles of [their center location] or within 7 miles of any other Incredible Pizza Company Family Entertainment Center.” (Franchise Agreements § 16.5.)

26. Plaintiffs agreed that all their obligations under each of the Franchise Agreements “which expressly or by their nature survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement will continue in full force and effect after and notwithstanding its expiration or termination until they are satisfied in full or by their nature expire.” (Franchise Agreements § 16.8.)

27. French executed guarantees of plaintiffs’ Franchise Agreements, personally guaranteeing the performance of certain obligations contained in the agreements, specifically Sections 5.2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11 of the Franchise Agreements.

28. The Letter Agreement also provides: “It is the Intent of the Parties that L.R. French, III is not guarantying Section 7.3 of the Franchise Agreement (Indemnification) when executing the Guaranty attached to the franchise agreement; provided, however that L.R. French, III shall be personally responsible for all of the financial obligations described in such Guaranty.”

### **C. Plaintiffs’ Refusal To Honor Incredible Pizza’s Purchase Option**

29. After entering into each of the seven franchise agreements, plaintiffs commenced operation of the seven centers. Plaintiffs have operated under each of the franchise agreements for at least two years or more.

30. On November 25, 2009, plaintiffs sent notices to Incredible Pizza stating that, pursuant to sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Letter Agreement, plaintiffs were terminating each of their seven franchise agreements with Incredible Pizza effective March 7, 2010 because each center had operated at a loss for three consecutive months.

31. Incredible Pizza responded to plaintiffs’ November 25, 2009 letters on December 4, 2009, stating that Incredible Pizza did not presently have sufficient information to evaluate

whether each of plaintiffs' centers had in fact operated at a loss for the past three months, as plaintiffs claimed. Incredible Pizza stated that if in fact the FECs had not operated at a loss for three consecutive months, plaintiffs termination of the franchise agreements would be improper and a violation of the agreements. Incredible Pizza also reminded plaintiffs of its option to purchase at fair market value the assets of each center and to assume the leaseholds. Incredible Pizza requested that plaintiffs provide it with their opinion of fair market value of the assets and stated that if the parties cannot reach an agreement on fair market value, Incredible Pizza "will select an independent appraiser to value the assets and expect you to do the same pursuant to the terms of the franchise agreement."

32. On December 14, 2009, plaintiffs sent a letter to Incredible Pizza setting forth their estimate of the fair market value of the assets of each of their Incredible Pizza centers. Recognizing that plaintiffs' estimates of fair market value for the assets deviated substantially from Incredible Pizza's own estimates, Incredible Pizza retained an independent appraiser to value the assets of each center.

33. Consistent with the appraisal process set forth in the agreements, on January 6, 2010, Tony Cox of Incredible Pizza sent an email to the managing partner at plaintiffs' Warr Acres Center stating that an appraiser would arrive at the store on January 7, 2010 to appraise the assets of the center. On January 7, 2010, plaintiffs told Incredible Pizza that the appraiser's visit was neither "necessary [n]or appropriate" given that "Incredible Pizza never exercised its option rights within the applicable 30 day time period."

34. That same day, Incredible Pizza sent a letter to French providing its estimates of the fair market value of the assets of each of plaintiffs' centers. Incredible Pizza's fair market value estimates were several millions of dollars less than plaintiffs' estimates. The letter further

provided that because the estimates are so far apart, Incredible Pizza was making arrangements to have an independent appraiser provide Incredible Pizza with an appraisal of the assets of each center, consistent with the terms of the franchise agreements. Incredible Pizza also reminded plaintiffs that, pursuant to the franchise agreements, “[Incredible Pizza] or our agents have the right, at any reasonable time and without advance notice to you, inspect the Premises.”

35. On January 19, 2010, Incredible Pizza learned that, without any prior notice and in violation of the franchise agreement, plaintiffs had unilaterally closed the Mesquite Center the previous day. After receiving confirmation of the closure from the Mesquite Center’s terminated employees and suppliers, Incredible Pizza sent a Notice of Termination based on the center’s improper closure. The Notice further stated that Incredible Pizza was thereby exercising its option to purchase the assets of the Mesquite Center and that Incredible Pizza’s independent appraiser would be at the center the following day to conduct an appraisal in accordance with the franchise agreement. The letter asked that plaintiffs “not move, transfer, impair or damage the assets of the [Mesquite Center]” and that plaintiffs comply strictly with the post-termination obligations set forth in Section 16 of the franchise agreement. Despite their obligations under the franchise agreement, plaintiffs proceeded to sell the Mesquite assets to third parties.

36. Since sending their November 25, 2009 notices, purporting to terminate their franchise agreements effective March 7, 2010, plaintiffs have continued to operate their Incredible Pizza centers (with the exception of the Mesquite Center) and to use the Incredible Pizza marks. Also, since November 25, 2009, plaintiffs have continued to receive ongoing marketing support from Incredible Pizza, have participated in numerous lengthy marketing calls with Incredible Pizza representatives, and continue to receive marketing materials from Incredible Pizza for ongoing promotions.

37. Plaintiffs have failed to pay royalties and advertising fund amounts due and owing to Incredible Pizza during the term the term of their Franchise Agreements.

38. Pursuant to their November 25, 2009 notices, plaintiffs terminated their franchise agreements effective March 7, 2010 but continue to operate under the Incredible Pizza marks.

39. On April 2, 2010, Incredible Pizza timely sent a letter to plaintiffs exercising their options under Section 16.6 and 16.7 of the Franchise Agreements to purchase the assets and assume the leaseholds of plaintiffs' Warr Acres Center, Pasadena Center, Euless Center, Lafayette Center and El Paso Center.

40. On April 26, 2010, Incredible Pizza sent a letter to plaintiffs stating that as they have terminated their franchise agreements effective March 7, 2010, they must immediately comply with all post-termination obligations, including ceasing to identify any business with which they are associated as a current or former Incredible Pizza Company family entertainment center, ceasing to use the Incredible Pizza marks, complying with their post termination covenants not to compete, and honoring Incredible Pizza's option rights to purchase the assets, and assume the leaseholds, of their Incredible Pizza centers.

#### **D. Incredible Pizza's System and Marks**

41. Incredible Pizza is engaged in the business of franchising and managing family entertainment centers.

42. To identify the source, origin and sponsorship of its brand of centers, and to distinguish those products and services from those established, made, offered and sold by others, Incredible Pizza and its authorized franchisees have extensively used certain trademarks, service marks, trade names, logos, emblems and indicia of origin, (the "Incredible Pizza Marks"), in connection with the operation of authorized centers.

43. Pursuant to franchise agreements entered into by Incredible Pizza and its authorized and approved franchisees, Incredible Pizza grants qualified persons the right to own and operate centers, together with a limited license to use the Incredible Pizza Marks in connection therewith, but only in such manner and at such locations as are expressly authorized by Incredible Pizza in the franchise agreements.

44. Incredible Pizza licenses the Incredible Pizza Marks for use in connection with the operation of authorized centers at specific locations.

45. The Incredible Pizza Marks are registered on the Principal Register of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The registrations of the Incredible Pizza Marks continue in full force and effect.

46. Incredible Pizza has given notice to the public of the registration of the Incredible Pizza Marks as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1111 and complies with all legal requirements to ensure that it and its authorized franchisees remain the exclusive users of the Incredible Pizza Marks.

47. Incredible Pizza and its authorized franchisees have continuously used the Incredible Pizza Marks in interstate commerce in connection with the promotion, sale and licensing of authorized family entertainment centers and the promotion and sale of the products and services they offer since the date of their registration.

48. Incredible Pizza and its authorized franchisees have extensively advertised and promoted the family entertainment centers and the products and supplies they offer under the Incredible Pizza Marks through various media.

49. As a result of such efforts and the considerable money spent in connection therewith, the products offered by Incredible Pizza and its franchisees under the Incredible Pizza

Marks have met with widespread public approval and have established demand and goodwill among consumers.

**COUNT I**  
**BREACH OF CONTRACT – AREA DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**  
**(Against FEC Holdings, LP)**

50. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-49 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 50, as if fully set forth herein.

51. FEC Holdings' failure to develop Incredible Pizza centers in accordance with the development schedule set forth in the Area Development Agreement constitutes a material breach of the Area Development Agreement.

52. As a result of this breach, Incredible Pizza has been injured and has suffered damages including, without limitation, loss of revenues, profits, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against FEC Holdings.

**COUNT II**  
**BREACH OF CONTRACT – WRONGFUL TERMINATION**  
**(Against FEC Champions, LP and FEC Mesquite LP)**

53. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-52 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 53, as if fully set forth herein.

54. FEC Champions and FEC Mesquite wrongfully terminated their franchise agreement in violation of the franchise agreements.

55. As a result of this wrongful termination, Incredible Pizza has been injured and has suffered damages, including, without limitation, loss of revenue, profit, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre and post judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against all FEC Champions and FEC Mesquite, jointly and severally.

**COUNT III – BREACH OF CONTRACT**  
**(Against FEC Champions, LP; FEC Mesquite, LP)**

56. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-55 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 56, as if fully set forth herein.

57. FEC Champions and FEC Mesquite unilaterally closed the Mesquite Center, without notice, and in breach of their franchise agreement.

58. After closure of the Mesquite Center and termination of the franchise agreement, FEC Champions and FEC Mesquite further breached the franchise agreement by refusing to comply with their obligations in Sections 16.6 and 16.7 of the franchise agreement by honoring Incredible Pizza's contractual rights to purchase the assets of the Mesquite Center at fair market value and to assume the leasehold of the Mesquite Center.

59. Instead, they refused to allow Incredible Pizza to purchase the assets of the Mesquite Center and, have upon information and belief, sold the assets to third parties in violation of the franchise agreement.

60. FEC Champions and FEC Mesquite have also refused, and continue to refuse, to allow Incredible Pizza to assume the leasehold for the Mesquite Center.

61. As a result of these breaches of the franchise agreement, Incredible Pizza has suffered damages, including, without limitation, loss of revenue, profit, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre and post judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against FEC Mesquite, LP and FEC Champions, LP, jointly and severally.

**COUNT IV – BREACH OF CONTRACT**  
**(Against FEC Champions, LP and FEC Mesquite, LP)**

62. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-61 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 62, as if fully set forth herein.

63. FEC Champions and FEC Mesquite have failed to pay, and continue to fail to pay, Incredible Pizza amounts due and owing under the franchise agreement, including royalties and advertising fees.

64. As a result of these breaches of the franchise agreement, Incredible Pizza has suffered damages, including, without limitation, loss of revenue, profit, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre and post judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against LP; FEC Mesquite, LP and FEC Champions, LP; jointly and severally.

**COUNT IV - BREACH OF CONTRACT – AREA  
DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND GUARANTY**  
**(Against Lloyd Robert French, III)**

65. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-64 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 65, as if fully set forth herein.

66. French personally guaranteed FEC Holdings' performance and obligations under the Area Development Agreement.

67. The failure to develop Incredible Pizza centers in accordance with the development schedule set forth in the Area Development Agreement constitutes a material breach of the Area Development Agreement, for which French is personally liable under his guaranty of the Area Development Agreement.

68. As a result of FEC Holdings' breach for which French is personally liable, Incredible Pizza has been injured and has suffered damages including, without limitation, loss of

revenues, profits, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against French.

**COUNT V - BREACH OF CONTRACT – WRONGFUL TERMINATION**  
**(Against Lloyd Robert French, III)**

69. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-68 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 69, as if fully set forth herein.

70. Plaintiffs wrongfully terminated their Franchise Agreements in violation of the Franchise Agreements.

71. French personally guaranteed performance and obligations of the Franchise Agreements, and is personally liable for this breach.

72. As a result of these wrongful terminations, Incredible Pizza has been injured and has suffered damages, including, without limitation, loss of revenue, profit, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre and post judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against French.

**COUNT VI – BREACH OF GUARANTY**  
**(Against Lloyd Robert French, III)**

73. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-72 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 73, as if fully set forth herein.

74. FEC Champions, FEC Mesquite and French unilaterally closed the Mesquite Center, without notice, and in breach of their franchise agreement.

75. After closure of their Mesquite Center and termination of their franchise agreement, FEC Champions, FEC Mesquite and French further breached the franchise agreement by refusing to comply with their obligations in Sections 16.6 and 16.7 of the franchise agreement

by honoring Incredible Pizza's contractual rights to purchase the assets of the Mesquite Center at fair market value and to assume the leasehold of the Mesquite Center.

76. Instead, FEC Champions, FEC Mesquite and French refuse to allow Incredible Pizza to purchase the assets of the Mesquite Center and, has upon information and belief, sold the assets to third parties in violation of the franchise agreement.

77. They have also refused, and continue to refuse, to allow Incredible Pizza to assume the leasehold for the Mesquite Center.

78. French personally guaranteed the performance and obligations of the franchise agreements, and is personally liable for their breach.

79. As a result of these breaches of the franchise agreement, Incredible Pizza has suffered damages, including, without limitation, loss of revenue, profit, attorneys' fees and expenses, pre and post judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against French.

**COUNT VII – BREACH OF CONTRACT**  
**(Against Lloyd Robert French, III)**

80. Incredible Pizza repeats and realleges ¶¶ 1-79 of its Amended Counterclaim as and for this ¶ 80, as if fully set forth herein.

81. Plaintiffs have failed to pay, and continue to fail to pay, Incredible Pizza amounts due and owing under the Franchise Agreements, including royalties and advertising fees.

82. French personally guaranteed the performance and obligations of the franchise agreements, and is personally liable for this breach.

83. As a result of these breaches of the franchise agreements, Incredible Pizza has suffered damages, including, without limitation, loss of revenue, profit, attorneys' fees and

expenses, pre and post judgment interest and other actual, consequential and incidental damages for which it seeks recovery against French.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE, INCREDIBLE PIZZA** respectfully prays for the following relief against non-debtor plaintiffs:

- A. Judgment in its favor and against the non-debtor plaintiffs, jointly and severally for damages caused by the non-debtor plaintiffs' breaches of the Franchise Agreement, Area Development Agreement and related guarantees, including pre- and post-judgment interest and the damages described more fully above;
- B. Judgment in its favor and against French for the damages caused by the debtor plaintiffs' breaches of the Franchise Agreements and French's breaches of his guarantees, including pre- and post-judgment interest and the damages described more fully above;
- D. Costs and attorneys fees; and
- E. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: April 29, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

**CHENG COHEN LLC**

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**-AND-**

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*Attorneys for Defendants Incredible Pizza  
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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned attorney certifies that on April 29, 2010, a true and correct copy of the foregoing *DEFENDANTS' ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND INCREDIBLE PIZZA FRANCHISE GROUP LLC'S COUNTERCLAIM* was served via court's ECF upon:

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